

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: This week was cold and wet for much of the State. Frost damage was a concern following recent warm weather and early crop development. Out of forty-three stations, thirty reported temperatures below freezing, and twenty-nine reported at least five days of precipitation. Only fifteen stations reported even a single growing degree day (temperature base of 50 degrees). All stations along the Coast reported more than 3 inches of precipitation. Despite the recent surge of rain and snow, seasonal cumulative precipitation remained below normal levels in thirty-two stations. High temperatures ranged from 71 degrees in Ontario, down to 48 degrees in Parkdale. Lows ranged from 16 degrees in Christmas Valley, Lakeview and Baker City, up to 39 degrees in Astoria/Clatsop.

Field Crops: Rain prevented field activity this week. Winter grain crops were off to a good start, although standing water has been an issue in many western areas where rain drainage was poor. Most fields were too wet to drive machinery, or even to walk through on foot. In Jefferson County, garlic seed and sugarbeet seed suffered heavy losses overwinter. Although planting was brought to a halt, many areas had already finished planting field crops in the previous warm weeks. Klamath County crops faced dust storms and uncertain water supplies.

Vegetables: This week there was very little field work due to overly wet conditions. Carrot roots that were being transplanted

in Jefferson County were put on hold this week due to the weather as well. However, onions were planted in Malheur County when weather allowed. The Lane County Farmers Market opened April 3.

Fruits and Nuts: Fruit trees were blooming this week. Pears, prunes, plums, peaches, and cherries were in full bloom. Blueberries were also in bloom but needed some dry weather. Dry sunny weather was needed as apples begin to bloom in parts of the State. Caneberries were about ten days away from bloom and grapes will start showing some shoots in about a week in Douglas County. Hazelnut trees could be seen leafing out in Washington County. Marionberry growers in Clackamas County were finding freeze damage as canes break dormancy.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Greenhouses were in full production. Shipping season was in full swing. Nurseries were clearing damaged and unsold stock. Christmas tree growers were busy clearing unsold trees and planting new ones.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Ranchers were busy with calving and lambing, and tending to the newborns. Some animals were out on the early grasses, but warmer temperatures were still needed for growth to really take off. Some counties were dealing with flooded pastures. Supplemental feeding continued.

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 04/04/10

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	14	52	34
Subsoil	2	19	49	30

Crop Progress - Week Ending 04/04/10

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	53	-	42	45
Barley emerged	19	-	29	26
Spring wheat planted	76	-	34	50
Spring wheat emerged	31	-	2	19
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.0	-	4.1	-

Crop Condition - Week Ending 04/04/10

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	3	42	44	11
Range and pasture	6	24	40	27	3

Western Oregon

BENTON/LANE/LINN: Dry winter conditions in March gave way to a series of storms that produced much needed rain and snow in the southern Willamette Valley this week. Ground preparation for annual crops was underway, but it was hard to get into fields this week due to the wetness. Planting will be delayed. Early fertilizer and pesticide applications were made on grass seed crops. Annual ryegrass seed on poorly drained ground has not dried enough to start fertilizing. High ground wheat looks good but needs to dry out. Leaf diseases will soon become a problem. Wheat planted on marginal ground was badly damaged by excessive rain. Volunteer/no-till drilled annual ryegrass seed on poorly drained ground was stressed and needs a break from the rain. Peaches, cherries and pears were near full bloom. There was some freeze damage to peaches. Pollination may have been dampened by the rain. Apples were pushing. The Lane County Farmers Market opened April 3. Greenhouses were in full production.

CLACKAMAS: It was a cold and very wet week with more than 2.5 inches of rain. Tree fruit were in bloom, peaches were nearly done, plums and prunes were in full, and cherries were starting. There were a couple dry, sunny days this week that allowed bees to get to work. Cattle and calves were out on early grass, still a few cows left in barns on hay waiting to calve. Still a lot of hay left in the barn with slow sales. Nurseries were working hard to find sales and clearing out lots of freeze damaged stock and otherwise unsalable inventory. Christmas tree growers were clearing fields, burning overgrown unsold trees, and planting new ones. Marionberry growers were finding extensive freeze damage as canes break dormancy. Those single digit temperature days in early December were lethal.

CURRY: Over 4 inches of rain fell this week and temperatures were cool. Pastures were growing slowly due to the cool soil temperatures, except where flooded.

DOUGLAS: The recent ten day wet spell has pushed river levels up to their highest point of the winter. Fields were all too wet to drive machinery in, making orchard and vineyard spraying difficult at best. Pears, prunes, and cherries were in full bloom. Plums and peaches were done pollinating and looked as though they survived the frosty mornings. Dry sunny weather is needed as apples begin to bloom. All locations need to get fungicides on trees as soon as it dries out a little. No vegetable field work done yet. Blueberries were also in full bloom and need some dry weather. Caneberries were about ten days away from bloom. Grapes were at wooly bud stage and will show some shoots in about one week.

JACKSON: The County is about 4 inches below normal precipitation, and with a poor snow pack in the high country for summer irrigation reserves, but snow fell at the higher elevations around the Rogue Valley on Tuesday with rain at the lower elevations. Cooler temperatures helped the snow stick around and should provide much needed help as far as filling the local reservoirs. Not much field work this week but crops already planted because of the warmer than usual weather earlier this spring are benefitting from the moisture. Cooler weather could hamper pollination efforts in local orchards as the bees do not care for it. Winter grain crops were looking about normal at this time. Early warm weather has given grains a good start with little sign of freeze out. Fruit crops bloomed about two weeks early. A few cold nights required frost protection. Pasture grass looks to be off to a good start, with some livestock already using pasture along with supplemental feeding. Some folks were buying up any hay they can find from last years crop, with concerns about hay cropping this year. There were quite a few new calves already on the ground, as well as lots of baby lambs. As weather permitted, ground preparation was being done for spring planting.

JOSEPHINE: Animals were out in their spring range and pasture. Calves were arriving late in the area. Lots of trees were in bloom. The pollen count was very high even with the moisture laden air. Little field work done, as fields were too wet to work either with machinery or manually. Mountains were covered in snow after recent snowfall.

POLK: After a drier than normal winter with low snow pack, the past week Polk County received over 5 inches of rain, with 3.5 inches in 24 hours reported by one landowner. That amount equates to about a 50 year storm event. Some streams came up from flows of near 50 percent of normal to near flood stage. Garden crops that were planted may be damaged by excessive water and frosts this week. The previous 2-3 weeks were unseasonably warm so people started planting early.

WASHINGTON: Winter wheat doing well where drainage was good; low spots drowned out or frequent submerging damage. Clover and alfalfa were growing well. Prunes, pears, and gravenstein apples were blooming. Filberts were losing catkins and were leafing. Growers were eager for planting weather. Nurseries were digging shrubs and transferring to containers and shipping. Cattle waded through soggy/muddy fields and ate supplemental feed. Some weed control and fertilizing accomplished in the short favorable weather and moderate temperatures, although the County received 4.5 inches of rainfall last week. The low temperature was 31 degrees, and the high 45 degrees, while humidity ranged from a high of 95 percent to a low of 75 percent.

Eastern Oregon

GILLIAM: Over an inch of snow fell in Condon overnight. Cooler temperatures have slowed crop development. A need for average to above average moisture will be necessary for Gilliam County crops to achieve their potential.

HARNEY: Cold weather limited plant growth. Snow fell daily, though not heavily, through the week.

HOOD RIVER: Variable cold and wet weather conditions prevailed through much of the week. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at full white to first bloom (WSU stages 5 & 6); Red Delicious apple at half-inch green to tight cluster (WSU stages 3 & 4); Bing cherry at open cluster to first white (WSU stages 5 & 6).

JEFFERSON: Irrigation season will start April 5 this year for the North Unit Irrigation District, which is about 10 days earlier than normal. Approximately 70 percent of the garlic seed crop and 100 percent of the sugarbeet seed crop died over the winter. Other specialty seed crops seem to have handled the winter better than these. Transplanting of carrot roots (stecklings) to be grown for seed has begun, but the recent unfavorable weather put that on hold.

KLAMATH: The Oregon Governor has declared a drought for Klamath County. Precipitation was around 70 percent for the year and water storage was low as a result of the drought. Soil moisture was also low. It is anticipated that irrigators in the project may only receive 30 to 40 percent of their water allocation. Irrigators from Clear Lake may receive no irrigation water. Dust storms have resulted in crop losses this week. Blowing sand and topsoil directly killed wheat and young alfalfa stands. For crops that were not destroyed, there will likely be production losses. An NRCS cover crop program has been implemented to prevent wind erosion. Snow throughout the week has been a much welcomed sigh, however the cold temperatures may affect crops that have already started to grow. Snow levels

were not significant and will not reverse the severe drought conditions. Klamath County was listed on the Drought Monitor as a severe drought for the third straight week.

LAKE: Received several inches of snow during the week and over the weekend. Weather was unseasonably cold.

MALHEUR: Day time temperatures were 5-10 degrees below normal, with frost most nights. Scattered rain showers varied from heavy to light. Onion and sugar beet planting was going on when conditions permitted.

MORROW: There were high winds on Friday and there was heavy snow through Sunday night.

SHERMAN: Crop year moisture to date is ahead of long term average by 0.89 inches, the first time Sherman County has seen extra moisture this late for several years. It snowed on Good Friday.

UMATILLA: Crops were ahead of schedule, but slowed by cold weather this week. Wheat fields had snow covering in the mornings over the weekend. Irrigators were hoping for more snow in the mountains. Potatoes and onions were 50 percent planted with other crops also ahead of schedule. Entomologists say that insect populations were a generation ahead.

UNION/BAKER: Some much needed moisture came this week. Wide temperature swings impeded crop and pasture growth, while moisture and high winds delayed field work. Soil temperatures were still in the 40s, and soil moisture coming out of winter was drier than expected. Still too early in most of Baker County for turnout. Some lower elevation range was beginning to turn green. With warmer weather in the future, pasture and range conditions should soon improve.

WASCO: There were showers and cloudy weather the entire week. Temperatures were in the mid 30s in the mornings, the mid 50s in the afternoons, and lower 30s at higher elevations at night. Wheat fields need to be sprayed. Orchards were blooming.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 4, 2010 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	39	53	45	-2	-	-7	3.71	2.37	7	60.83	6.18	111	131
Bandon ⁸	33	52	45	-4	-	-7	3.77	2.40	7	44.92	-4.74	90	143
Crescent City	35	54	47	-4	3	-15	3.22	1.66	7	47.82	-8.02	86	118
Florence	32	54	43	-6	-	-7	4.10	2.42	6	66.06	2.39	104	120
North Bend	36	54	46	-3	1	-6	3.75	2.30	7	45.34	-8.21	85	121
Tillamook	32	55	46	-1	-	-7	3.15	1.29	7	49.16	-23.44	68	124
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	35	56	44	-4	-	-8	2.55	1.77	6	33.45	0.20	101	122
Corvallis	30	55	43	-5	-	-7	2.54	1.74	7	33.61	-2.40	93	137
Detroit Lake ⁸	32	50	39	-3	-	+0	5.75	4.44	7	63.05	6.86	112	124
Eugene	32	55	44	-5	-	-14	2.77	1.78	6	30.47	-11.15	73	111
Hillsboro	29	53	43	-5	-	-8	1.94	1.24	5	28.38	-2.80	91	113
McMinnville	29	52	43	-6	-	-10	2.42	1.58	6	20.80	-16.17	56	97
Portland	38	54	46	-4	-	-13	2.03	1.36	7	25.24	-3.78	87	128
Salem	33	57	45	-3	-	-7	3.01	2.28	6	34.14	1.54	105	117
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	30	56	44	-8	2	-19	2.29	1.70	7	22.07	-5.07	81	108
Medford	31	63	45	-5	7	-9	1.25	0.90	4	10.03	-5.51	65	73
Roseburg	35	56	45	-5	3	-14	2.50	1.83	7	23.24	-4.24	85	114
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	24	57	39	-3	-	-1	0.70	0.42	3	10.71	1.10	111	76
Echo ⁸	27	67	45	-5	3	-11	0.38	0.20	4	6.01	-0.64	90	69
Heppner	28	64	43	-4	3	-4	0.51	0.16	4	6.93	-2.48	74	61
Hermiston	25	67	46	-4	7	-7	0.47	0.29	2	6.07	-0.58	91	56
Madras ⁸	23	52	39	-7	-	-8	0.39	0.21	5	6.16	-1.14	84	81
Moro	26	58	40	-4	-	-6	0.79	0.58	6	10.22	1.90	123	68
Parkdale ⁸	28	48	39	-9	-	-9	2.89	2.39	6	30.73	3.74	114	117
Pendleton	29	69	44	-5	7	-4	0.45	0.20	4	7.33	-1.30	85	67
Prairie City ⁸	23	52	39	-7	-	-8	0.39	0.21	5	6.16	-1.14	84	81
The Dalles	32	57	45	+0	-	-7	0.62	0.41	3	10.07	0.28	103	78
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	18	51	33	-7	-	+0	0.79	0.50	4	8.69	-3.84	69	71
Bend	21	57	37	-5	-	-5	1.61	1.45	2	7.88	-0.60	93	28
Burns	10	62	33	-7	4	+1	0.57	0.36	6	7.71	1.15	118	74
Christmas Valley ⁸	16	57	33	-10	-	-7	0.36	0.15	6	3.21	-5.51	37	64
Klamath Falls	21	57	35	-7	-	-6	0.35	0.13	5	4.22	-6.15	41	61
Klamath Falls ⁸	21	54	34	-8	-	-6	0.79	0.57	6	5.30	-5.07	51	72
Lakeview	16	50	31	-10	-	-4	0.60	0.30	7	6.32	-4.78	57	79
Lorella ⁸	17	54	34	-8	-	-6	0.59	0.37	7	5.76	-4.61	56	69
Redmond	19	55	37	-5	-	-7	0.25	0.11	3	4.13	-1.50	73	54
Worden ⁸	21	56	35	-7	-	-6	0.59	0.37	5	4.84	-5.53	47	62
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	16	63	35	-8	5	-1	0.38	0.17	5	4.49	-1.52	75	62
Joseph	19	58	35	-3	-	+0	0.70	0.28	6	7.32	-10.26	42	59
La Grande	24	66	40	-4	7	+0	0.40	0.05	4	5.36	-6.28	46	55
Union	24	66	41	-3	7	+0	0.87	0.59	4	6.90	-1.05	87	57
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	22	71	42	-6	10	-3	0.36	0.19	4	7.02	-0.05	99	60
Rome	20	64	37	-7	7	+1	0.35	0.16	3	6.46	1.61	133	56

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2010: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2009.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normal period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.